[2nd March 1925

Government Houses.

Indian music and art at the Government House.

* 229 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to refer to my speech on page 911 of the Proceedings of the Council, Volume XVII, in which a suggestion was made for the introduction of an element of Indian music and art at the Government House and be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are aware that the Indian Band is played at certain public places in Madras under the auspices of the Corporation or under other patronage ; and

(b) whether any steps have been taken or are being contemplated for the introduction of an element of Indian music and art at the Government House ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Such matters are at His Excellency the Governor's exclusive discretion.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer to clause (b), may I ask whether it is not open to the Government or to any Member of the Government to bring such matters to the notice of His Excellency the Governor ? Surely, the wishes of this House should be brought to the notice of His Excellency the Governor. If it has not been done in this case, why not ? "

11-15 a.m.

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" It is quite open to a Member of Government to bring any point to the notice of His Excellency but we have not had any suggestion that we should do so. If the hon. Member will kindly refer to the proceedings, last year, he will find that the hon. Member who brought up the subject closed by saying ' I therefore urge this point on the attention of His Excellency the Governor.' There was no suggestion to Government or to any Member of the Government that they should take any action in the matter."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" We have not the advantage the hon. Member has of bringing these matters to the notice of His Excellency. We cannot address His Excellency from this House. If the hon. Member will not quibble, it will be much better that these matters are brought to the notice of His Excellency."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" That debate has already come to the notice of His Excellency."

Public Service.

The relationship of Mr. P. Govinda Menon, Sub-Assistant Director of Survey, to the Assistant Director.

* 230. Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Home Member, the hon. the Law Member, the hon. the Member for Finance and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. P. Govinda Menon, the Sub-Assistant Director of Survey, is a direct brother of the Assistant Director and if so, whether it is in accordance with the policy of the public service that two brothers are put in the same department in such posts ?

A.—There is no rule or order prohibiting the employment of brothers in the same department, nor do the Government think such employment necessarily objectionable.

Criminal Justice.

Reversion of acting sub-magistrates.

231 *Q.*—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether an order passed by the Board of Revenue reverting an acting sub-magistrate is final ;

(*b*) if not, whether the Government will act upon the recommendations of the Collector when he thinks that a reverted sub-magistrate is fit to be restored ;

(*c*) how many acting sub-magistrates among Christian Nadars were reverted within the last five years in Ramnad district ; and

(*d*) whether the Government have passed final orders in all those cases ?

A.—(*a*) The officer has a right of appeal to Government.

(*b*) The Government will exercise their own judgment with reference to the merits of the case.

(*c*) The Government have no information.

(*d*) No case is pending with Government at present.

Irrigation.

Irrigation distributing channels.

* 232 *Q.*—Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that the construction of notches in the irrigation distributing channels in the Godavari delta is retarding proper supply of water to tail ends ; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that local officials found the system of working by notches a failure ?

A.—Certain reports have recently been received which are under examination.

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I know with reference to the answer that is given if the hon. Member will be pleased to state, after the examination is over, if the working has been a failure or otherwise ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Yes."

Second-crop zone in the Gōdāvari Western delta.

* 233 *Q.*—Mr. M. SEETAYYA : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether, pending the formation of the second-crop zone, darkhast applications for land in the Gōdāvari Western delta have been kept in abeyance for several years ?

A.—The Government have no information, but have called for it.